

Welcome to Just Among Friends #1. For a first issue it should not be too bad: two game starts, two orphans, the first half of an article on the Alpine Chicken, and a special feature--"Diplomacy Doctor." There is some interesting information to be found on page 2 and plenty of game openings.

Some would call this a virgin zine. I have been told by many people that nothing I am associated with could even loosely be considered virgin. Well, look us over, and let me know if you like anything in here.

The Alpine Chicken: Another Look

Many people have disregarded the Italian opening A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven, and F Nap-Ion as a poor attempt by Italy to sit on the fence for a season before selecting a target. Others regard it as an opening which will antagonize everyone and get Italy little in the way of centers. A last major group of people considers it a rather weak way to attack Austria, showing little courage for the attack and one which has been telegraphed to Austria.

It is possible that this opening has been sold short because of the above, but there are certain situations in which this opening can be of great use to Italy.

The first point to remember is that Italy does not have that many choices of good openings with which to start. In many cases Italy will commit units to an attack before seeing what alignments occur among the nations during the Spring moves. All other countries have openings which allow them to sit back a season, make progress toward other supply centers, yet not close off options as to friends and enemies.

In the past, this opening has been used mostly to set up A Ven-Tri, A Pie-Tyro, and F Ion-Tun or its alternative A Pie-Tyro, A Ven S A Pie-Tyro, and F Ion-Tun. The choice of moves in this case is based on the disposition of German and Austrian units as well as the guillibility of the Austrian player. Almost every discussion of the opening is based on an upcoming attack of Austria, therefore Austria expects the attack whenever this opening is seen.

I suggest that this opening be used for what it was designed, to play the waiting game. In the past, even though the A Pie has antagonized the French, France is normally relieved when A Pie moves to Tyro. But need A Pie make this move? I suggest that there are many cases in which A Pie can better be used than in the Austrian attack. Based on statistics from English postal games, England moves into the English Channel in about 30% of the games, and Germany moves to Burzundy in about 15% of the games. These present the situations where France is under attack from one of his northern neighbors (well over 30% of the openings). A Pie will be considered a small problem compared to the alternatives in the north. Besides, historically Italy heads toward Austria next season, right? So if Italy opens with the Alpine Chicken, opportunities versus France should arise in more than a third of the cases. If the French had A Mar hold in the Spring, the possibility of snatching Marseilles is good if the French move A Mar-Spa; but even if that army is in Spain in the spring, France has a tendency to believe that the opening will hold true to form, and leave Mar open (hoping to build F Mar and teach Italy a lesson). If the pressure from the northern power(s)

(continued on page two)

Just Among Friends is a monthly publication of postal Diplomacy available from Al Pearson, Rte 1, Box 177B5, Kearneysville, W. Va. 25430. JAF is published the Wednesday after the last Thursday of each month (and if you understand that, you are probably a politician). Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year, and game fees are \$2.00 per position.

* Game Openings--Sure there are openings:
JAF #3--Bill Hart, Glenn Overby, 5 openings.
JAF #4--Pam Overby, 6 openings.

* The Standby List--Since this is a new zine, the standby list is a little short: Keith Mercer. Please help a struggling publisher, and join this extremely select group.

* For those of you who need to call the publisher and desire to run up their phone bills, the number is (304) 725 5537.

* I have been asked, will I print letters and articles submitted to JAF? Sure, if they are in reasonably good taste. Each article printed in JAF gets the author free issues. If things get slow, I also may print recipes and portions of campaign speeches for sheriff in Jefferson County, W. Va.

* Sample issues--A large number of people will receive free samples of this zine, including approximately thirty publishers. I am happy to send out samples to anyone, especially if they send me a stamp.

* Back Issues--None right now, except JAF #-1 which was a one-half page carbon copy issue sent only to the National Archives. Copies of JAF #-1 are available only through the Archives in Washington, D.C., and you must preface your request with the codeword "Groundwart." If you wish any other back issue, wait a couple of months so some can be printed.

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The Alpine Chicken (cont.)

is actual, all Italy need do is point out the "upcoming" attack on Austria, and then try to plow into southern France.

While all this has been going on, Austria has reacted to the anticipated attack; but Italy has not really menaced Austria, and can point to his Fall move toward France as an indication of honorable intentions. Italy picks up Tunis with the fleet and gets his traditional one build at a minimum. This may be used to build a fleet which can be used against France or Turkey if the situation warrants. I would suggest that if Turkey looks to be embroiled with Russia and/or Austria, the F Tun be used to harass Spain and the MAO. The threat of Italy in the MAO should cause great problems if the French fleet has been used to balance off an English fleet in the Channel. Whenever this opportunity arises for Italy to attack France when either Germany or England has also moved on France, Italy should spend great effort in getting the northern power to press the attack on France. Let France decide who to face, E/G who are traditionally a threat in the opening, or Italy who has opened with the "Anti-Austrian" moves.

Success against France should result from proper play and negotiations when Italy is presented with this situation, in about one third of the games. Italy's options other than anti-French will be covered in the next article in the next issue.

Game Starts

JAF #1 1980HW (Note correction in Boardman number)

Austria-Kelth Mercer, RD. #6, Mercer, Pa. 16137

England-Rich Dunn, 19420 Normandy Pk Dr., Seattle, Wa. 98166

France-Brad Wilson, 302 Friendship Dr., Paoli, Pa. 19301

Germany-Bill Thompson, 2405 Ailsa Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21214

Italy-Tom Swider, 1183 Robinson Hill Rd., Endwell, NY 13760

Russia-Mike Coppedge, Box 1348 R-MC, Ashland, Va. 23005

Turkey-Tom Williams, 145 S. Franklin Ave, Valley Stream, NY 11580

JAF #2 1986Z

Austria-Stan Johnson, Rte. 6, Box 11M, Boone, NC. 28607

England-Mike Fleischauer, 8710 Allenwood Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133

France-Norman Schwartz, 86-11 139th St., Briarwood, NY 11435

Germany-Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, Ca. 93304

Italy-Jack Dumas, Railroad St., Bernhards Bay, NY 13028

Russia-Jim Greenwood, 800 W. 58th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64113

Turkey-Donald Swartz, 2549 Glenmary Ave, Apt. 2, Louisville, Ky. 40204

The Spring 1901 orders for these games can be found later on in this issue. And now is as good a place as any to remind the players who have yet to send in the money for their games, now is the time.

JAF Contest

Two free issues of JAF will be awarded to the person to correctly answer the following twelve questions; in case of a tie, the first entry will receive the prize.

1. For what is the Borg-Warner Trophy given?
2. What was the only thing that remained in Pandora's box after she opened it?
3. What military undertaking was Operation Soapbuds?
4. During World War II for what were U.S. Tugs named?
5. For which college did Jim Thorne play football?
6. Who played Stoney Burke in the television series of the same name?
7. What are the last names of comedians Bob and Ray?
8. What is the only marsupial not found in Australia?
9. What is the scientific name for baking soda?
10. Who said "Paris is worth a mass"?
11. What was the name of Odysseus' dog?
12. Who was the fair-skinned god of the Aztecs?

These questions should not be too rough, if readers know where to look. It is very possible that the winner of this contest could have less than twelve correct answers. Good Luck.

DEADLINES: Orders are due the last Thursday of the month. Telephone orders will be accepted by the GK until 6 pm. JAF will be postmarked by the next Wednesday, or all subscribers will receive a one month extension to their sub for free.

1980HW (or JAP #1)

Austria(Fercer)- F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Gal, A Bud-Rum
 England(Dunn)- F Lon-Eng, F Edi-Nth, A Lvp-Yor
 France(Wilson)- A Par-Gas, F Bre-Eng, A Mar-Spa
 Germany(Thompson)- F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh
 Italy(Swider)- A Ven-Pie, A Rom-H, F Nap-Tyrr
 Russia(Coppedge)- F St.P-Bot, A War-Gal, A Mos-Ukr, F Sev-Rum
 Turkey(Williams)- A Con-Bul, F Ank-Bla, A Smy-Con

PRESS:

VIENNA-MOSCOW: My moves against you are for my own well being. Your correspondance has left some doubts in my mind.

TRIESTE to WORLD: The Grand Emperor of this just land relocated the nations capitol to the outskirts of Trieste for military reasons known only to him. It was also reported that the possibility of a nervous breakdown of the Emperor is not entirely true, he was merely into too much imported French wine.

VACATION CITY, ROCKE: Today Pope Pontius Pious announced the Catholic church would no longer follow the traditional teachings of the Bible, but of Machiavelli's book, The Prince. For generations, the holdings of the Papal empire have been in shoddy shape, and planned to unite the empire. Anyone caught ridiculing Pope Pontius Pious will fall victim to his emissaries.

Pontius mentioned that one of his early objectives will be Iberia, so that he may begin the organization of the dreaded Spanish Inquisition. Press agents inquired to the line of thought of this course of action, and Pontius Pious cunningly replied, "Who'd expect the Spanish Inquisition?"

ROM-PAR: Haven't heard any possible course of action from you, so I figured that you'll need my valiant men to defend you from any invasions, such beasties such as ants, cockroaches, and other assorted Paris-sites.

ROM-RUS: Cat got your tongue?

ITA to the REST OF YOU BARBARIANS: Why haven't the Huns or Vandals visited the Vatican lately?

LONDON: King George IV today moved the 1st Fleet under Adm. Mounthatten and the 2nd Fleet under Adm. Churchill to sea. Asked why, he said, "...Tensions between the Empires of the European continent has proved hostile. Therefore, until these tensions are subdued, the Empire of His Majesty will remain at a state of war..."

LONDON-MOSCOW: Where's the Czar?

LONDON-VIENNA: There, oh where, is the Archduke?

CLYDE to GIT (Going In Together): Let's go chaps...

LONDON: From the mother's womb goes the child
 chilly and cold, into the dark night
 But where, oh where, does the light shine right?
 Only Fate knows.

MOSCOW: It appears that another phase of the 12-year-old Austro-Russian War has begun. After being held to a standstill by the unusually harsh winter of 1900-1901, Russian troops are again on the march. There had been some hope that the long-standing conflict would be resolved diplomatically during the winter truce period, but those hopes were dashed when Austrian negotiators began issuing increasingly threatening statements as the spring thaw drew near. The prospects for peace in the coming year are small indeed.

1980HZ (or JAF #2)

Austria(Johnson)- A Vie-Tyro, A Bud-Tri, F Tri-Alb
 England(Fleischauer)-F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Nth, A Lvp-Edi
 France(Schwartz)- A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, F Bre-Eng
 Germany(Brown)- A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Den
 Italy(Dumas)- A Ven-H, A Rom-Apu, F Nap-Ion
 Russia(Greenwood)- F Sev-Rum, A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F St.P-Bot
 Turkey(Swartz)- F Ank-Bla, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Arm

Press:

LONDON: Her Majesty's government declared today that they shall strive to maintain the "Balance of Power" in Europe, come what may. Accomplishing this may require protective British presence in several "neutral" or "non-aggressor" states.

FRANCE-GM: Is it true that a P-A-R-T alliance stinks?

PARIS-ANKARA: You sniveling turd! The real reason Dad threw you out of the house was that you're so stupid you can't even spell our last name correctly!

BREST-LONDON: Your enthusiastic responses to my communiques was so underwhelming that I've sent a fleet to see if you're still alive. If you are, please let me know so I can radio the fleet back to port. I'm doing my best to conserve fuel.

PARIS-MUNICH: Guten Tag, wie gehts?

MARSEILLES-ROME: I hear the godless Austrian Emperor eats live Italian babies for lunch. Are you going to let that continue?

PARIS-VIENNA: Rumor has it that your PBM skills are matched only by your adeptness at Carrier Strike!

PARIS-MOSCOW: I don't want you to feel left out so this press line is for you.

FRANCE to the WORLD: President Jacques Arse announces the appointment of General Bas T'Ard as head of the French Liberation Fighting Forces. Any nation seeking "Liberation" of any supply centers need only ask and assistance will be immediately available.

OTHER ZINES--

Whitestonia- As mentioned elsewhere in this zine under Player poll, this zine is published by John Caruso. It contains Dip, Wooden Ships, Mastermind, and contests. A feature of the zine is the ongoing development of the mythical creature "Kathybyrne." In addition to the above games, Nuclear Holocaust openings should be available. "Catastrophe" is the subzine put out by Dave White, 2448 E. St. Vrain, Colorado Springs, Colo 80909 which has just started its first game.

Lone Star Diplomacy- New in my mailbox as I type this is LSD, a very professionally produced zine from Mike Conner, 3214 Beverly Road, Austin, Texas, 78703. There are game openings in Diplomacy, and the zine is definitely worth a stamp for a sample. "Could do for Texas what Emhain Macha did for Ireland."

Emhain Macha- Since I just mentioned this fine zine, I might as well give you the details. Published by Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Road, Macedon, N.Y. 14502. Runs Dip plus his own variant based on Ireland; the zine focuses on "the Irish Question," and openings in Dip are just around the corner.

 ORPHAN GAMES--

Two orphan games will be run in JAF. One will be restarted in this issue and is listed below. The other (1979S) will be held up for about one month; I need a couple of standby players for the game, and there has been a challenge of the position based on an error in the last issue of Havoc. Hopefully both of these problems will be corrected by issue #2.

1978KE

Positions - Fall 1904

Austria- A Bul, A Bud, A Ser, F Adr
 England- F Bel, F Ska, F Spa(so), F Por
 France- F Spa(sc)(must retreat Lya,otb), F MAC, F Lvp, F Lon, A Mun,
 A Hol(must retreat Ruh,otb), A Ber(must retreat Pru,otb)
 Germany- A Sil, A Ber, F Den, A Kie
 Italy- F Ion, F Smy, A Pie, A Tyro, A Gre
 Russia- F Bal, A Nwy, A Swe, A Rum, F Bla
 Turkey- A Con, A Ank

Supply Center Chart - Fall 1904

Austria- Bud, Tri, Vie, Bul, Ser (5) build 1
 England- Edi, Por, Spa, Bel (4) even
 France- Bre, Far, Par, Lvp, Lon, Mun (6) remove 1
 Germany- Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, War (5) build 1
 Italy- Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Gre, Smy (6) build 1
 Russia- St.P, Mos, Sev, Rum, Swe, Nwy (6) build 1
 Turkey- Con, Ank

Players

Austria- Walter Norris, 5714 Shookstown Road, Frederick, Md. 21701
 England- Tim Haffey, 5933 Hilton Street, Oakland, Ca. 94605
 France- Keith Mercer, Rte 6, Mercer, Pa. 16137
 Germany- Brian Sutton, 1132 Washington, University of Md, College
 Park, Md. 20742
 Italy- Rich Dunn, 19420 Normandy Pk Dr, Seattle, Wash. 98166
 Russia- Gene Burgess, Star Route Box 220-6, Columbus, Miss. 39701
 Turkey- Civil Disorder

Winter 1904 and Spring 1905 orders due the last Thursday of the month (just like all the other games)..Oct 30.

 HOUSE RULES--

I have sent, or am enclosing, the JAF houserules to those playing in any of the games. But I would like to make a general comment about press items. Although I am personally not offended by most press, I would prefer that authors use a style in which the idea is definitely conveyed, but in a non-vulgar manner. An example would be "a person having carnal knowledge of a pile of feces" as opposed to the more traditional compound word. I like to see writers show creativity and resourcefulness and thus get away from those common, drab, mundane words and phrases seen in some other zines, restroom walls, and subway cars in New York City.

DIPLOMACY DOCTOR

by Dr. Ben Cagey, M.D.

I would like to welcome readers to the first installment of "Diplomacy Doctor." This column is specially prepared for Just Among Friends, and with this first article I would like to give the readers some background on myself and the things to expect of this column in the future.

Many doctors are now moving into "specialized" fields: Dr. Art Ulene is a good example. Dr. Ulene has staked his claim to the Today Show on NBC; his constituency is those individuals who are dumb enough to expect free medical advice at seven o'clock in the morning on television. Cases have been reported of people actually trying to tell the television screen their symptoms, hoping to get an answer and a perscription for valium back.

I, Dr. Ben Cagey, on the other hand, have selected the study and practice of medicine concerning the physical and mental problems of Diplomacy players, and unlike those boobs who watch Ulene on television and expect free advice (and get what they pay for) you fortunate readers are paying for my medical advice, through your subscription fees. You are getting what you pay for (not a whole lot unless the managing editor decides to up my retainer).

After picking up a Diplomacy game when I was in medical school, I played both face-to-face and by-mail for several years. During this time my professional curiosity was aroused by the strange physical and mental afflictions of the other players, problems I had never seen in the general public. At this point in my life I dedicated my medical practice to the relief of suffering in this neglected portion of our society. After four years at St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital in Washington D.C. (a very active place due to all the government bureaucrats and the Martins in nearby Rookville), I decided to gain more specialized knowledge of the strange disorders most common in Diplomacy players. For this I went to two great centers of research and learning. First I spent two years at the California Home for the Criminally Rude in Pasadena. I also spent two years of intensive study at Our Saints of the Perpetual Stab Hospital in Flushing, New York. After all this preparation, I opened my practice in Philadelphia and currently I serve as special medical consultant to DipCons.

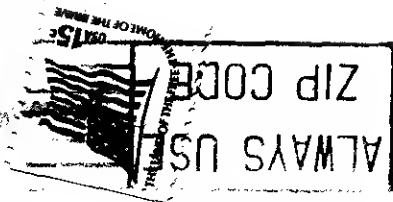
The focus of articles in this column will be special medical problems of Diplomacy players as well as questions written to me by the afflicted across the country. Next month this column will discuss several diseases which cause involuntary muscle spasms such as the Tyrolia Twitch and the Prussian Palsy. See you next month.

PLAYER POLL-- John Caruso is running the 1st Annual Diplomacy Players Poll in his zine Whitestonia. The three categories in the poll are: best player in regular Dip, best player in variant Dip, and the best article writer. Each person voting has one vote in each category, but a vote may be split between two persons. Votes are due by Nov. 22, 1981, and should be mailed to John at 42-34 Saull St, Flushing, NY 11355. If you want a copy of the results, send him a BASE.

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Just Among Friends

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